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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9749
INFO RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5278
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2881
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1185
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1154
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2087
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 3902
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2340
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2868
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 1023
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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SUBJECT: MARRIOTT BOMBING VICTIMS COMMEMORATE TRAGIC DAY

REF: (03) JAKARTA 9011

¶1. (U) SURVIVORS HOST COMMEMORATION: Survivors of the August 5, 2003 Marriott Hotel bombing in Jakarta commemorated the five-year anniversary on Tuesday, with a prayer led by a Muslim cleric at 12:45 p.m., the moment of the bombing. The attack killed 12 and injured approximately 150, mostly Indonesians. The event was hosted by the 8/5 Foundation, a group of survivors and their families, along with the Marriott Hotel.

¶2. (U) QUICK U.S. RESPONSE APPRECIATED: Imam Prasajo, chair of the Nurani Foundation, which assisted victims after the bombing, praised the U.S. Mission for its prompt response. He said the Ambassador called him right after the bombing and asked how assistance could be directed so that it would alleviate suffering immediately. Working through the Nurani Foundation, the Mission contributed a half million dollars in USAID funds for victim cash support, medical supplies, medical treatment, and follow-up care, USD400,000 of which was dispersed within 10 days of the bombing so that victims would get immediate relief.

¶3. (U) MARRIOTT MANAGER STOOD STRONG: Prasajo also cited the work of then Marriott Manager John Jaskula, an American who Prasajo said treated Marriott staff as family and made sure everyone was attended to during that traumatic time, never flinching during recovery efforts.

¶4. (U) VICTIMS NOT FORGOTTEN: Several of the Marriott bomb victims who continue to suffer from the burns and other disabilities spoke at the ceremony about how the bombing changed their lives. Slide shows of the victims before and after the bombing punctuated the human devastation of the bombing. 8/5 Foundation continues to raise funds for victims, and donors made contributions at the ceremony.

¶5. (U) TERRORIST VICTIMS UNITED: Foundations to assist the October 12, 2002 Bali bombing continue to work with 8/5 and other terrorist victim organizations. Geoffrey Thwaites, an Australian whose son was among the young rugby team players who lost their lives at the Bali bombing, attended the Marriott commemoration. Thwaites founded the Zero to One

Foundation (ZTOF) to assist the victims and their families.
This foundation has since assisted victims of other attacks
as well as tsunami victims in Aceh and Nias.
HUME